

Serial No. 09/554,025

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in claim 25 characterized in that the bearing shell (3) also includes a head-side area, facing away from the joint pin (1), that is provided with indentations (3.2) which extend parallel to a joint axis (L).

Please ~~rewrite~~ claim 12, which was indicated as allowable, in independent form as new claim 24, as follows:

24. Ball-and-socket joint having a joint pin provided with a joint ball (1.1), a plastic joint housing (2) into which is inserted a bearing shell (3) for rotatable and tiltable support of the joint ball (1.1), and a metal ring (4) to positively lock the bearing shell (3) within the joint housing (2), the metal ring (4) is embedded in the joint housing (2) and has a radially inwardly bent end segment (4.3) located in an area of an opening in the joint housing (2) that is provided for passage of the joint pin (1), characterized in that an inside diameter of a cylindrical center part (4.1) of the metal ring (4) corresponds to an outside diameter of the bearing shell (3), the metal ring (4) having a radially outwardly angled flange (4.2) that is extrusion-coated with material of the joint housing (2).

Please cancel ~~claim 12~~.

Please rewrite claim 15, which was indicated as allowable, in independent form as new claim 25, as follows:

25. Ball-and-socket joint having a joint pin provided with a joint ball (1.1), a plastic joint housing (2) into which is inserted a bearing shell (3) for rotatable and tiltable support of the joint ball (1.1), and a metal ring (4) to positively lock the bearing shell (3) within the joint housing (2), the metal ring (4) is embedded in the joint housing (2) and has a radially inwardly bent end segment (4.3) located in an area of an opening in the joint housing (2) that is provided for passage of the joint pin (1), characterized in that an inside diameter of a cylindrical center part (4.1) of the metal ring (4) corresponds to an outside diameter of the bearing shell (3), the bearing shell (3) includes a pin-side area that is provided with slits (3.1) which extend up to an area of an equator (Ä) of the joint ball (1.1).

Please ~~cancel~~ claim 15.

Please add new claim 26 as follows:

26. Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the metal ring (4) protrudes outwardly of the plastic joint housing (2) such that the radially inwardly bent end segment (4.3) is spaced away from the joint housing (2) in the area of the opening of the joint housing (2), the radially inwardly bent end segment (4.3) securing the bearing shell (3) in the joint housing (2).